



**COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION**  
**ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE—Code No. 101**



**CLASS-X-(2025-26)**

**SET: 1**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) The question paper is divided into four sections - A, B, C and D.  
Section A — Reading Skills -22 marks  
Section B — Writing Skills -22 marks  
Section C — Grammar -10 marks  
Section D — Literature Textbook -26 marks
- (ii) There are 12 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.
- (iii) Answers should be brief and to the point.
- (iv) You may attempt any section at a time.
- (v) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.
- (vi) Instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.

<b>SECTION A- READING SKILLS</b>		<b>22</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:</b>	<b>12</b>
	<p>1. Music is perhaps the most popular and widely practised form of Fine Arts, transcending all kinds of cultural and linguistic barriers. Any form of fine art is difficult to master and almost impossible to perfect and music is no exception.</p> <p>2. Nature, it is learnt, has blessed almost two-thirds of the human race with musical ability of some sort. Music has the power to bring out the deepest emotions. It can make one cry or bring a smile on one's face. In fact, it is a magic medicine and many seek refuge in it when they are depressed or stressed. It is this intimacy that makes us listen to music or even hum or sing sometimes. This singing, or realistically speaking, expressing one's emotion musically sometimes takes a serious turn. This desire to show musical expression in public then becomes a serious business profession. And from here the musical journey begins.</p> <p>3. This desire to sing before an audience is innocent and beautiful and indeed it is perfectly alright to have such a genuine desire. But it is also important to understand that singing is an intricate art — a highly refined one at that, which requires systematic, prolonged and strict training, to be acceptable. This is an aspect we forget in our keen desire to reach the stage and perform. It is almost like preparing a formal meal for some specially invited</p>	

	<p>guests, without even having learnt and trained in the basics of cooking. This is why we have more noise and less music nowadays.</p> <p>4 These days almost everyone sings and it does not stop here. Most of us want to become professional singers. Result: a complete disregard for and ignorance of the training part, as the need is never felt to go through one and the urge to get to the stage and perform overcomes even a little desire to learn, if any. If at all, somewhere along the way one feels the need to gain some knowledge and training, it leads to hurried shortcuts and half-hearted attempts, best described as ‘Crash Courses’.</p> <p>5. It is observed that those who have attained the so-called partial success, suddenly feel that they lack the required knowledge and are not learned enough. But it is too late by then. It should be understood here that the stage or a performance brings in a different mindset within the artist. It is always recommended and rightly said, that while on stage, cover the mistakes and weaknesses if any, and get along. But the contrary is true when it comes to acquiring knowledge and during the learning process. While under training, the student is expected to make mistakes but then rectify those mistakes under the supervision and guidance of the teacher. Therefore, it is good to make mistakes and then be corrected during the process of learning as this subsequently makes one flawless and educated. This is a different mindset. And these two mindsets discussed above, (those of a performer and that of a student) cannot co-exist.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State whether the following statement is true or false. The writer compares untrained singing to preparing a formal meal without learning the basics of cooking. <span style="float: right;">1</span></li> <li>2. Which quality of music makes it universal? <span style="float: right;">1</span></li> <li>3. Which phrase best describes the writer’s attitude towards music? <span style="float: right;">1</span> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Music is an ordinary pastime</li> <li>B. Music is a difficult academic subject</li> <li>C. Music is a magical and emotional force</li> <li>D. Music is a simple form of entertainment</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Why do many people seek refuge in music? <span style="float: right;">1</span> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Because it helps them to earn fame</li> <li>B. Because it helps them when they are depressed or stressed</li> <li>C. Because it helps them sleep better</li> <li>D. Because it teaches discipline</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. If a student wishes to become a professional singer, what lesson from the passage should they apply? <span style="float: right;">1</span> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Focus only on performing before audiences.</li> <li>B. Depend on natural talent and ignore training.</li> <li>C. Undergo disciplined and systematic practice.</li> <li>D. Avoid singing difficult songs.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Why does the writer say that it is too late for those who attain only partial success? <span style="float: right;">1</span></li> <li>7. Why does the author consider it good to make mistakes during learning? <span style="float: right;">2</span></li> <li>8. The desire to sing in public overcomes the need to train. Elaborate. <span style="float: right;">2</span></li> <li>9. What is best described as ‘Crash Courses’? <span style="float: right;">2</span></li> </ol>	
2	<b>Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:</b>	10
	1. Five bear species are found in Asia. These include the Asiatic black bear, brown bear, sun or honey bear, sloth bear, and giant panda ( <i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i> ). All Asian bears	

are thought to be in decline due to habitat destruction and fragmentation caused by timber harvest, agriculture, and human settlement. An additional and increasing challenge to the viability and survival of Asian bears is the commercial trade in bears and their parts. There is commercial demand in Asia for bears as pets, gourmet cuisine, and traditional medicine.

2. Significant amounts of forests have been lost throughout the range of Asia's bear species. As of 1986, tropical Asian countries with bear populations had lost an average of 64% of their wildlife habitat. Much of this habitat loss is permanent, as felled forests are replaced by large-scale cash-crop plantations and human communities or simply not replanted.

3. Forest destruction, agriculture, and human settlement draw bears into conflict with or within close range of humans. These encounters usually result in bears being killed as "pests" or taken from the wild for their economic value as pets, food and/or medicine. Keeping bears as pets is popular in Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, and other Asian countries. Bears are usually brought into homes as cubs, then resold once they grow into unwieldy and dangerous subadults. It is at this time that these pet bears commonly enter the food and medicine markets of Asia.

4. The use of bear fat as a medicine dates to 3494 B.C. Bear gallbladder may have entered the Chinese pharmacopeia as many as 3,000 years ago. Prescriptions for bear gall first appeared in writing in the seventh century. A bear's medicine parts include its fat, meat, paws, gall, spinal cord, blood, and bones. Today's traditional Asian practitioners consider bear gall one of the most potent of "herbal" medicines, prescribing it for serious liver diseases, heart disease, hemorrhoids, and myriad other life-threatening or painful maladies.

5. A resurgence in the use of traditional medicines such as bear gall has accompanied the rapid increase in wealth ongoing in certain Asian countries such as Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea. Prices and demand for bears and bear parts have escalated at a rapid rate, especially in affluent countries. In response to a shortage in the supply of gallbladders from wild bears, China and South Korea are now farming bears commercially in order to extract bile from the gallbladders of live Asiatic black and brown bear.

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|--|---|
| 1. What are the main causes for the decline of Asian bear populations?   | 1 |
| 2. How does the commercial trade in bears threaten their survival?   | 2 |
| 3. State whether the following statement is true or false.<br>As of 1986, tropical Asian countries with bear populations had lost about 46% of their wildlife habitat.   | 1 |
| 4. For what illnesses do traditional Asian practitioners prescribe bear gall?  | 1 |
| 5. What connection does the passage make between wealth and wildlife exploitation?   | 2 |
| 6. Which countries are popular for keeping bears as pets?<br>A. Japan, China, and Korea<br>B. Thailand, Malaysia, and Taiwan<br>C. India, Nepal, and Bhutan<br>D. Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia  | 1 |
| 7. What happens to bears when they outgrow being household pets?<br>A. They are released back into the wild.<br>B. They are trained for zoo exhibitions.<br>C. They enter the food and medicine markets.<br>D. They are sent to wildlife rescue centers. | 1 |
| 8. Find a word from the passage (para 5) that means <b>“a revival or renewed interest in something.”</b>   | 1 |



<b>SECTION C- GRAMMAR</b>		10																		
7	<p><b>Complete the tasks from A to D as directed.</b>  <b>Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those in the brackets.</b></p> <p>We----- (i) (can, could, may, might) not go for a walk yesterday. There was such (ii)---  ----- (a, an, the, some) cold wind blowing and a heavy rain falling that all preferred to  (iii)----- (stay, stays, will stay, are staying) indoors.</p>	3																		
8	<p><b>The following paragraph has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and correction in your answer sheet as given in the example. Also underline the correct word. The first one has been done as an example.</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Error</th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Correction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>I had the chance to travel on a second-class railway compartment.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">e.g. the</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>a</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>It is difficult of forget the unpleasant experience. Peels for fruits</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(a)-----</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td>were threw all over the floor of a compartment.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(b)-----</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">(c)-----</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">(d)-----</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-----</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Error	Correction	I had the chance to travel on a second-class railway compartment.	e.g. the	<u>a</u>	It is difficult of forget the unpleasant experience. Peels for fruits	(a)-----	-----	were threw all over the floor of a compartment.	(b)-----	-----		(c)-----	-----		(d)-----	-----	4
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	(c)-----	-----																		
	(d)-----	-----																		
9 (a)	<p><b>Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence.</b></p> <p>Bryan: I stayed up all night yesterday to watch a James Bond movie Marathon.  Wife: swollen/ from/it's /eyes/more/ your/than/Bryan/ clear</p>	1																		
9 (b)	<p><b>Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows.</b></p> <p>Varun: What are you doing tonight?  Shamin: I have to prepare for my exam, so I'll study for it.  Varun: Can I be of any help to you?  Shamin: Can you lend me your notes?</p> <p>Varun asked Shamin (a) _____. Shamin replied (b)_____ Varun showed his concern by asking if he could be of any help to him. Shamin asked if he could lend him his notes.</p>	2																		
<b>SECTION D - LITERATURE</b>		26																		
10	<p><b>Read the following excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for any two excerpts, of the given three A, B and C.</b></p>																			
(a)	<p><b>But must I confess how I liked him,  How glad I was he had come like a guest in quiet, to drink</b></p>	<b>4+4=8</b>																		

	<p><b>at my water-trough And depart peaceful, pacified, and thankless, Into the burning bowels of this earth?</b></p> <p>(i) What can be inferred about the speaker's attitude towards nature based on the excerpt?</p> <p>(ii) List the meaning of the phrase "burning bowels of this earth".</p> <p>(iii) How do we know that the guest's thirst was quenched?</p> <p>(iv) The speaker compares the snake to a guest. Which word in the extract displays the snake's non-guest like behaviour?</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>
(b)	<p><b>O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason. Bear with me; My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar, And I must pause till it come back to me. First Citizen: Methinks there is much reason in his sayings. Second Citizen: If thou consider rightly of the matter, Caesar has had great wrong.</b></p> <p>(i) What skill of Antony as an orator is revealed in this extract?</p> <p>(ii) Select the line that indicates the speaker's deep grief and emotional connection with Caesar.</p> <p>(iii) What do the responses of the First and Second Citizens reflect about the impact of the speaker's words?</p> <p>(iv) What about the extract signifies shifting sentiments among the citizens?</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>
(c)	<p><b>Louisa Mebbin's pretty week-end cottage, christened by her "Les Fauves," and gay in summer-time with its garden borders of tiger-lilies, is the wonder and admiration of her friends. "It is a marvel how Louisa manages to do it," is the general verdict. Mrs. Packeltide indulges in no bigger-game shooting. "The incidental expenses are so heavy," she confides to the inquiring friends.</b></p> <p>(i) Why is Louisa Mebbin's week-end cottage the wonder and admiration of her friends?</p> <p>(ii) What lesson does Mrs. Packeltide learn from her experience?</p> <p>(iii) What does the name of Louisa Mebbin's cottage, 'Les Fauves,' symbolize?</p> <p>(iv) Why did Mrs. Packeltide stop indulging in big-game shooting?</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>
11	<b>Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each.</b>	5x2=10
(i)	Mr. Pakrashi was the force behind Patol Babu's brilliant performance as an absent-minded pedestrian. Substantiate the statement with reference to 'Patol Babu, Film Star'.	2

(ii)	How do Nicola and Jacopo's physical attributes stand in contrast with their inner mettle? (Two gentlemen of Verona)	2
(iii)	What will the poet's friend learn when he arises on the 'Judgement Day' in the poem, 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments'?	2
(iv)	What were the blessings the albatross brought with itself in 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'?	2
(v)	Did the sculpture of Ozymandias fulfil the purpose for which it had been built? Give reasons.	2
(vi)	In what sense can we call Michael a true gentleman? (Virtually True)	2
12	<b>Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words.</b>	1x8=8
(a)	Both the frog in Vikram Seth's poem " <i>The Frog and the Nightingale</i> " and Abel's children in the play " <i>The Dear Departed</i> " display greed, but in different ways. In about 150 words, elaborate how the greed of the frog and that of Abel's children differ in terms of their motivation, actions, relationships, and consequences.	
(b)	<b>OR</b>	
	You are Miriam, who, on returning to your hometown learn that your father is no more. Overwhelmed by grief, you wish to share your thoughts with a friend. As Miriam, write a letter to your friend Sahira, in not more than 150 words, expressing your feeling of guilt and regret.	